

REMARKS

By way of the present response, claims 1-24 are amended to improve readability, conform the claims to familiar U.S. claims format, and to recite various features without the term “means.”

Starting on page 2, the Office Action requires Applicant to elect a single disclosed species of invention. In response, Applicant hereby provisionally elects, **with traverse**, alleged “Specie III,” which is characterized as a method of producing a semiconductor device by etching the wiring using an atmospheric-pressure device having a plurality of linear-arranged plasma generation means,” and having claims 13-18 readable thereon.

The Office Action includes a statement that no claim is generic. It is respectfully submitted, however, that claims 1-6 recite the open-ended language “comprising,” and thus would cover embodiments having one, or possibly more than one linear plasma generator. Therefore, claims 1-6 are considered generic to at least “Specie I,” which is characterized as “a method for producing a semiconductor device by etching the wiring using an atmospheric-pressure plasma device having linear plasma generation means,” and to the Specie III method using a device having “a plurality of linear plasma generation means.”

Additionally, the Office Action characterizes claims reciting methods for producing a semiconductor device (i.e., Specie I and Specie III) to be drawn to species independent from those species related to methods for producing a display using a semiconductor device (i.e., “Specie II” and “Specie IV”). However, Applicant’s disclosure describes embodiments in which a semiconductor device and display device are used together, and that a method for producing a semiconductor device also can be used in a method for producing a display device using a semiconductor device. Thus, the Office’s requirement to elect along these lines (i.e., semiconductor device/display device using a semiconductor device) is believed improper. That is, claims 13-18, which are grouped in the Action with Specie III are believed generic to the Specie IV, to which claims 19-24 are respectively drawn. Hence, Applicant submits that claims 19-24 also should be examined along with claims 13-18.

It is further submitted that claims 7-12, which the Action characterizes as being drawn to Specie II, are generic to Specie IV for reasons similar to those given above with respect to Species I and III.

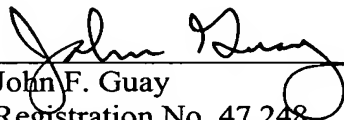
Furthermore, for claims to be properly restricted to different characterized species,

they must be mutually exclusive. See, MPEP §806.04(f). By contrast, while the pending claims set forth the invention in varying degrees of particularity, under Applicant's disclosure they do not necessarily recite any features that could be considered mutually exclusive characteristics of the Species I-IV.

Therefore, Applicants contend that all of pending claims 1-24 should be prosecuted in the present application.

Consideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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